ARTICLES
OF
ENQUIRY
CONCERNING
Matters Eccleſiaſtical
Within the DIOCESE of
CHESTER,
IN THE
Primary EPISCOPAL VISITATION
OF THE
Right Reverend Father in God,
JOHN
Lord Biſhop of CHESTER,
Anno Dom. 1671.

LONDON,
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The Tenour of the Oath to be Tendered to the Church-Wardens and Side-men.

YOU ſhall Swear, diligently to Enquire, and true Preſentment make, of all Defaults and Offences againſt the Laws Eccleſiaſtical of this Realm. In which you are to take Direction from theſe Articles. And that you will not Preſent any Perſon out of Malice or Ill-will, nor ſpare any out of Fear or Favour. *So help you God.*

ARTICLES
OF
ENQUIRY
Within the DIOCESE of
CHESTER.

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches or Chappels, with the Ornaments, Furniture and Poſſeſſions belonging to them.

I. IS the Fabrick of your Church (or Chappel) with all things appertaining to it, kept in good repair within and without, in ſuch order and decency, as becometh the Houſe dedicated to the Publick Worſhip of God?

II. IS there in the Church (or Chappel) a Font of Stone ſtanding in the uſual ancient place, with a Cover to it, for the Adminiſtration of Baptiſm? Is there alſo a convenient Communion Table, with a fair Carpet of Silk, or other decent Stuff, in the time of Divine Service; and with a fair Linnen

Cloth at the time of Administring the Sacrament? What Cup Chalice, Patin or Flagons, have you belonging to that Service?

III. HAVE you in your Church (or Chappel) a convenient seat for the Minister to read Divine Service in? And a Pulpit with a decent Cloth or Cushion for the same?

IV. HAVE you a large Folio Bible of the last Translation, with two Books of Common Prayer well bound, one for the Minister, the other for the Clerk? Have you the Book of Homilies set forth by Authority, the Book of Canons, and the Table of Degrees allowed and prohibited in Marriage.

V. HAVE you a Register-Book of Parchment for all who are Christned, Married or Buried in the Parish? Doth your Minister every Lords-day in the Presence of your Church-Wardens set down the Names of Parties, with the Day, Month, and Year of each Christning, Marriage, or Burial? Is the Transcripts thereof every Year, within one Month after the Twenty fifth of March, carried into the Bishops Registry.

VI. HAVE you a Paper-Book in which the Names of Strangers who preach or officiate in the Church (or Chappel) are set down; and another Book for the Church-Wardens Accompts?

VII. HAVE you a fair Surplice for the Minister to wear at the times of his publick Ministration provided at the Charge of the Parish.

VIII. HAVE you a Chest with three Locks and Keyes to keep the Books and Ornaments of the Church? Have you a Bier with a black Herse-cloth for the Burial of the Dead?

IX. IS the Church-yard sufficiently fenced with Walls, Pales, or Rails, and decently kept from all Annoyance or Incroachments? Are the Trees therein preserved?

X. IS the Mansion-House of your Minister, with all other Houses thereto belonging, kept in good repair? Have any of them been pulled down, or defaced? Have any Incroached upon the Land thereto belonging, or felled the Trees thereon growing?

XI. HAVE you a perfect Terrier of all Glebe-Lands, Gardens, Orchards, and Tenements belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, as also an Account of such Pensions, Rate-Tythes, and

and Portions of Tythes, or other yearly Profits (either within or without the Parish) as belong thereunto? Have any of the same been with-held from your Minister? And by whom, as you know, or have heard?

XII. HAVE any of the Ancient Glebe-Lands belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage been taken away or exchanged for other, without the free consent of the Incumbent, and Licence from the Ordinary? Have any Inclosures been made in your Parish, to the detriment of the Church, by the decay of Tillage, and converting Arable-Land into Pasture? By whom hath the same been made? And how many years since? and how much is your Parsonage or Vicarage damnified thereby in the yearly value thereof; as you know, believe or have heard?

XIII. HAVE any new Pews or Seats been erected in your Chancel, or in the body of the Church (or Chappel) without leave from the Ordinary.

TIT. II.

Concerning Ministers.

I. IS your Minister, Curate, or Lecturer, Episcopally Ordained?

II. HATH he been Licensed to Preach by the Bishop or either of the Universities?

III. IS he defamed or suspected to have obtained his Orders or Benefice by any Simoniacal Compact?

IV. DOTH your Minister diligently read Divine Service, and Preach every Lords-day in the Church, unless hindered by sickness, or reasonable absence? And in such cases doth he procure some lawful Minister to read Prayers, to Preach, and perform other Ministerial Duties?

V. DOTH your Minister in the Morning and Evening Service, in the Administration of the Sacraments, and in performing other Religious Offices appointed by the Church of England, use the respective Forms in the Book of Common-Prayer,

Prayer, together with all those Rites and Ceremonies which are enjoyned in this Church? And doth he make use of the Surplice when he reads Divine Service, or Administers the Sacraments?

VI. DOTH your Minister diligently Catechize the Youth of his Parish? Doth he prepare and procure them (as occasion is offered) to come and be Confirmed by the Bishop? And doth he endeavour to reclaim all Popish Recusants, and all Sectaries in your Parish, to the true Religion and Worship of God?

VII. IS your Minister a man of a sober, unblamable, and exemplary life? Is he grave, modest, and regular in his outward demeanor and apparel, according to the Constitutions of the Church? Or is his carriage, conversation, or company in any kind whatsoever, disorderly, or scandalous, and unbeseeming his Calling and Charge?

VIII. IS your Minister ready to visit the Sick, and to Baptize Infants in danger of death being so desired? Is any Infant, or more aged person in the Parish yet Unbaptised by his default? Doth he duly Administer the Blessed Sacrament of the Lords Supper, Three times every year at the least, whereof Easter to be one?

IX DOTH your Minister Marry any persons at Uncanonical hours, or in private, or such as are under age, not having the consent of their Parents and Guardians? Doth he Marry any either without Banes first published Three Sundays or Holidays, in the Church; or without License so to do; or with the License of any other than the Archbishop, Bishop of this Diocese, or his Chancellor?

X. DOTH your Minister duly bid and observe Holidays and Fasting days, as is appointed? And doth he then use the Forms of Prayer prescribed by the Church? Hath he taken upon him to appoint any private Fasts, or Religious Exercises without lawful Authority? Doth he or any other (Minister or Lay-person) in your Parish hold any unlawful Conventicles, or Meetings, under pretence of any exercise of Religion?

XI. IS your Minister constantly Resident among you? Hath he a Curate to assist him in his absence or presence? Doth he carry himself in all things, as an able and discreet Minister, and conformable to the Church of England? Doth he serve any

more

more Cures besides that of your Parish, and at what distance? what is the name of your Curate, and what yearly Stipend doth your Minister allow him?

XII. IS there in your Parish any Lecturer; what is his name? Doth he read Divine Service before his Lecture, as by Law is required; and is he Conformable to the Discipline of the Church of England.

TIT. III.

Concerning Parishioners.

I. ARE there any in your Parish who are reputed Hereticks, or Schismaticks, refusing Communion with the Church of England? Any impugners of the Religion established, of his Majesties Supremacy, or of any the Laws, Rites, and Ceremonies Ecclesiastical? Have any spoken or declared any thing in derogation, or to the depraving of the Form of Gods Worship in the Church of England, and Admnistration of the Sacraments, Rites and Ceremonies prescribed in the Book of Common-Prayer as it is now established by Law? Are there any convicted Papists, known Anabaptists, or Quakers, in the Parish?

II. ARE there any in your Parish, who lie under a common fame, or vehement suspition of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any common Drunkards, Swearers or Blasphemers of Gods holy Name and Word?

III. ARE there any Excommunicate persons, or any who countenance, or keep company with them? What punishment for any such offences have been commuted and exchanged into a pecuniary mulct or sum of Money by any Ecclesiastical Judg, exercising Jurisdiction within this Diocese, by vertue of any Grant or Commission? What was the sum of Money by them, or any of them so received and taken, and to what uses was the same bestowed?

IV. DO any of your Parish prophane the Lords-day by neglecting

lecting of Publick Holy Duties, or by doing the works of their ordinary Calling, or using unlawful Recreations, or permitting their Children or Servants so to do? Do they duly observe other Holidays, Festivals and Fasts appointed by Authority?

V. DO all those who inhabit in your Parish, duly resort to your Church (or Chappel) and continue there during Divine Service, Sermon, and other Holy Duties, with that Reverence, Order, and Decency, as befits devout Christians? Or, have any occasioned Riot, Clamor or Fighting in the Church at any time? Are there any Recusant Papists, or Sectaries in your Parish? Do they, or any of them keep any Schoolmaster in their House, which cometh not to Church to hear Divine Service, and receive the Holy Communion?

VI. ARE there any in your Parish who refuse to have their Infant Children Baptized by your Minister? Or do they keep them unbaptized longer than the Church allows? And what Infants, or more aged persons, are there in your Parish unbaptized?

VII. DO all your Housholders duly send their Children, Apprentices, and Servants to be Catechized? And do they take care (when occasion is offered) they should be Confirmed by the Bishop?

VIII. IS there any person in your Parish so confirmed and instructed, and being Sixteen years of age, who refuseth to receive the Blessed Sacrament of the Lords Supper, at least three times every year; whereof Easter to be one? And do all receive this Sacred Mystery with that outward gesture of Humility and Reverence as becomes them, meekly kneeling upon their Knees, according to the Order and Custom of the Church?

IX. ARE there any in your Parish who are known or suspected to be unlawfully Married, contrary to the Laws of God and this Church? Are there any, (who being lawfully Married and never Divorced) do yet live asunder? Or any, who being lawfully Divorced, do live together again? Or being separated for Adultery, have afterwards Enter-married with any other, during the life of their First Consort?

X. ARE there any Married Women in your Parish, who after their safe Delivery from Child-birth, refuse to make their Humble and Publick Thanksgivings to God, according to the appointment of the Church?

XI. ARE

XI. ARE there any of your Parish who refuse to pay their Easter Offerings, and other duties to your Minister? Or to pay the Rates assessed on them, for the Repair and Provisions of the Church?

XII. DO you know, or have you heard of any Patron, or other person in your Parish, who having the gift of an Ecclesiastical Benefice, hath made gain thereby upon any Bargain, either for Money, Pension, Lease, Reserve of Tythes, or Glebe, or other Simoniacal Compact whatsoever?

XIII. DO any among you refuse to Bury their Dead, according to the Rites of the Church of England? Are there any Wills of Deceased persons unproved, or Goods not administred? Do you know of any Legacies given to your Church, or to the Poor or to other charitable uses, not yet received by you, or detained from you, or not applied to the charitable uses appointed?

TIT. IV.

Concerning the Officers belonging to the Church.

I. ARE the Church-Wardens of your Parish, yearly chosen according to Law? And are there Sidemen appointed to assist them, for the due ordering of the Church?

II. HAVE the former and last Church-Wardens given up their Accompts to those that succeed them together with all Moneys and other things belonging to your Church (or Chappel?)

III. HAVE you a Parish Clerk, aged Twenty one years at least, who is of sober life and good report? Is he chosen by your Minister, and approved by the Parish; and is he able for Reading, Writing, and Singing as a Clerk? Are his Wages duly paid him?

IV. DOTH he or your Sexton take care of your Church, to keep it locked, and clean, to open the Doors, and ring the Bells in due time, to call the Inhabitants to the Worship of God; also to admonish them by Tolling of a Passing-Bell for any that

are dying, thereby to meditate of their own Death, and to commend the others weak condition to the mercy of God?

TIT. V.

Concerning Alms-houses, Schools, and School-masters, Physicians, Chirurgions, and Midwives.

I. IS there any Hospital, Alms-house, or Free-School founded in your Parish? Are they so governed and ordered in the use and revenue, as the Founders appointed, according to the Ordinances and Statutes which have been made concerning the same?

II. DOTH any man keep a Publick or Private School in your Parish? Is he or they licensed and allowed thereunto by the Bishop or his Chancellor? Is he of sober, religious and exemplary Conversation? Doth he instruct his Scholars in the Catechism and Religion of the Church of England? Is there any Woman that taketh upon her to instruct and educate any young Maidens? Doth she resort duly, and bring with her to Divine Service, upon the Lords day and Holidays, all such young Maidens as are committed to her Care?

III. DO any in your Parish practice Physick, Chirurgery, or Midwifry, without License from the Ordinary?

TIT. VI.

Touching Ecclesiastical Officers.

I. ARE there any Ecclesiastical Officers that exercise Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction within this Diocese, that take and receive any extraordinary Fees for any Cause? Have abuses or offences been presented by Church-Wardens and Quest-men? And are such offences, being presented, suppressed or left unpunished?

II. HAVE any Apparitors taken any reward for the concealing

reating of any Offence, or the avoiding of the puniſhment of the Offenders? And do they ſummon any without a Citation firſt had?

If you know of any other Default or Crime of Eccleſiaſtical Cognizance, you are to preſent the ſame.

"THe Miniſter of every Pariſh may joyn in Preſent-
"ments with the Church-Wardens and Side-men,
"and if they will not preſent, then the Miniſters them-
"ſelves (being the perſons that have the chief care of the
"ſuppreſſing of Sin and Impiety in their Pariſhes) may
"Preſent the Crimes aforeſaid, and ſuch things as ſhall
"want due Reformation. *Can.* 113.

JOH: CESTRIENS.

THe Miniſters of every Pariſh are deſired to give in the Names of ſuch of the younger ſort, in their ſeveral Pariſhes, as they judg fit to receive Confirmation from the Biſhop.

FINIS.